

So the motion to refer the bill and message to the Committee on Appropriations was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said motion was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

¶163.42 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—VETO OF H.R. 2099

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 2099, the "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996."

H.R. 2099 would threaten public health and the environment, end programs that are helping communities help themselves, close the door on college for thousands of young people, and leave veterans seeking medical care with fewer treatment options.

The bill includes no funds for the highly successful National Service program. If such funding were eliminated, the bill would cost nearly 50,000 young Americans the opportunity to help their community, through AmeriCorps, to address vital local needs such as health care, crime prevention, and education while earning a monetary award to help them pursue additional education or training. I will not sign any version of this appropriations bill that does not restore funds for this vital program.

This bill includes a 22 percent cut in requested funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including a 25 percent cut in enforcement that would cripple EPA efforts to enforce law against polluters. Particularly objectionable are the bill's 25 percent cut in Superfund, which would continue to expose hundreds of thousands of citizens to dangerous chemicals and cuts, which would hamper efforts to train workers in hazardous waste cleanup.

In addition to severe funding cuts for EPA, the bill also includes legislative riders that were tacked onto the bill without any hearings or adequate public input, including one that would prevent EPA from exercising its authority under the Clean Water Act to prevent wetlands losses.

I am concerned about the bill's \$762 million reduction to my request for funds that would go directly to States and needy cities for clear water and drinking water needs, such as assistance to clean up Boston Harbor. I also object to cuts the Congress has made in environmental technology, the climate change action plan, and other environmental programs.

The bill would reduce funding for the Council for Environmental Quality by more than half. Such a reduction would severely hamper the Council's ability to provide me with advice on environmental policy and carry out its respon-

sibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act.

The bill provides no new funding for the Community Development Financial Institutions program, an important initiative for bringing credit and growth to communities long left behind.

While the bill provides spending authority for several important initiatives of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including Community Development Block Grants, homeless assistance and the sale of HUD-owned properties, it lacks funding for others. For example, the bill provides no funds to support economic development initiatives; it has insufficient funds for incremental rental vouchers; and it cuts nearly in half my request for tearing down the most severely distressed housing projects. Also, the bill contains harmful riders that would transfer HUD's Fair Housing activities to the Justice Department and eliminate Federal preferences in the section 8, tenant-based program.

The bill provides less than I requested for the medical care of this Nation's veterans. It includes significant restrictions on funding for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that appear designed to impede him from carrying out his duties as an advocate for veterans. Further, the bill does not provide necessary funding for VA hospital construction.

For these reasons and others my Administration has conveyed to the Congress in earlier communications, I cannot accept this bill. This bill does not reflect the values that Americans hold dear. I urge the Congress to send me an appropriations bill for these important priorities that truly serves the American people.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *December 18, 1995.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, by unanimous consent, ordered that the veto message together with the accompanying bill, be printed (H. Doc. 104-148) and announced that the objections of the President would be spread upon the pages of the Journal.

Mr. LEWIS of California moved that the veto message and accompanying bill be referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

After debate,

By unanimous consent, the previous question was ordered on the motion.

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House refer said veto message and accompanying bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, announced that the yeas had it.

So the motion to refer the bill and message to the Committee on Appropriations was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said motion was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

¶163.43 GENERAL LEAVE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

On motion of Mr. BEREUTER, by unanimous consent,

Ordered, That for the remainder of the First Session of the 104th Congress, all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in that section of the Record entitled "Extension of Remarks".

¶163.44 PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 122

Mr. GOSS, by direction of the Committee on Rules, reported (Rept. No. 104-423) the resolution (H. Res. 309) providing for the consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 122) setting forth the revised Congressional Budget for the U. S. Government for the fiscal years 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002.

When said resolution and report were referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

¶163.45 EXPEDITING COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Mr. GOSS, by direction of the Committee on Rules, reported (Rept. No. 104-424) the resolution (H. Res. 310) expediting the commencement of committee hearings during the remainder of the First Session of the 104th Congress.

When said resolution and report were referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

¶163.46 SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1332. An Act to clarify the application of certain Federal criminal laws to territories, possessions, and commonwealths, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

¶163.47 SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1060. An Act to provide for the disclosure of lobbying activities to influence the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

¶163.48 BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee did on the following dates present to the President, for his approval, bills of the House of the following titles:

On December 14, 1995:

H.R. 325. An Act to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for an optional provision for the reduction of work-related vehicle trips and miles travelled in ozone nonattainment areas designated as severe, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1240. An Act to combat crime by enhancing the penalties for certain sexual crimes against children.

On December 16, 1995:

H.R. 1977. An Act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and re-